

Whitney Johnson-Lessard

whitneyjohnson@gmail.com

www.whitneyjohnson-lessard.com

Education

- 2022** MFA, Art Theory and Practice, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2017** BFA, Painting, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2017** BS, Art Education, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2014** AA, Illinois Central College 2014 East Peoria, IL

Residencies

- 2023** Artist in Residence, Project 1612, Morton, IL
- 2020** Artist in Residence, Prairie Center for the Arts, Peoria, IL

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2025** *Held within the Rocks and Dust*, Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, IL
- 2023** *kind in the right stomach*, Project 1612, Morton, IL, [The Visualist](#)
- 2023** *three handfuls of pennies*, Lease Agreement, Bloomington, IL, [WGLT Bloomington](#)
- 2022** *Whitney Johnson and Hannah Songer*, Open Space Art Gallery & Studios, Ottawa, IL
- 2019** *Decade's End*, The Portal, Peoria, IL
- 2017** *Sensing Synonyms*, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL, [Illinois State University News](#)
- 2017** *Part and Parcel*, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL
- 2016** *5th anniversary of the Cometogetherspace*, 209 E Fell Street, Normal, IL
- 2015** *Thresholds and Boundaries*, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL

Group Exhibitions

- 2026** *title tbd*, curators Holly Cahill & Melissa Oresky, University of Illinois Springfield, Visual Arts Callery, Springfield, IL
- 2025** *Birds of a Feather*, Peoria Public Library, Peoria, IL
- 2024** *Members and Friends 2024*, Galesburg Community Arts Center, Galesburg, IL
- 2024** *phone, wallet, KEYS*, Coco Hunday, Tampa, FL
- 2024** *The Old and the New: Envisioning Peoria History in New Ways*, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria, IL
- 2022** *blossom soup, blossom salad*, Block Museum of Art, Evanston, IL
- 2019** *Fairfield Collects*, ICON Gallery, Fairfield, IA
- 2018** *A Practice in Permanence*, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
- 2018** *The Randon and Abby Gettys Collection*, Project 1612, Peoria, IL
- 2017** *Student Annual 2017*, University Galleries, Normal, IL, Juror: Claire Ashley
- 2016** *The First Show*, Extraordinaryspace, Normal, IL
- 2016** *Student Annual 2016*, University Galleries, Normal, IL, Juror: Karen Reimer
- 2016** *Force of Nature*, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL
- 2016** *89th Annual Amateur Art Exhibition*, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL, Jurors: Dawn Gettler and Joshua Cox, 1st place in Painting (University)
- 2016** *ABBRVTN*, Figure One Gallery, Champaign, IL

- 2016** *Multiplicity*, Rachel Cooper Gallery, Normal, IL
- 2015** *Works from Around our State*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL

Permanent Collections

- 2017** University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016** Milner Library, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016** Normal Editions Workshop, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016** *Quote / Unquote*, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Publications

- 2022** [*blossom soup, blossom salad*](#), Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2016** [*Lori Waxman's 60 WRD/MIN Art Critic*](#), University Galleries, Normal, IL

Awards and Honors

- 2024** Creative Catalyst Grant, Illinois Arts Council
- 2024** Arts Dollars Grant, Arts Partners of Central Illinois
- 2022** Paschke Grant, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2017** Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2017** Friends of the Arts Grant Recipient, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016** Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2015** Larry and Patricia (Hunkler) Stagen Endowed Teaching Scholarship, Illinois State University, Normal IL
- 2015** Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2014** Friends of the Arts Grant Recipient, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2014** School of Art Tuition Waiver, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2013** Honors Program Tuition Waiver, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL

Teaching

- 2024 - present** Adjunct Professor, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL
- 2023 - present** Affiliate Professor, Bradley University, Peoria, IL
- 2022 - 2023** Instructional Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2022 - present** Teaching Artist, Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, IL
- 2021 - 2022** Visiting Artist Coordinator, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2021 - 2022** Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2017 - 2019** Art Teacher, Lowpoint-Washburn Middle and High School, Washburn, IL
- 2016 - 2017** Woodshop Assistant, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2016** Teaching Assistant, Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI
- 2015** Research Assistant, Illinois State University Milner Library, Normal, IL